

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/634,677

Examiner

James R. Scott

Applicant(s)

ALTMANN, MARKUS

Art Unit

2832

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to papers filed on 11/16/2004, 12/02/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are claims 1-8.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

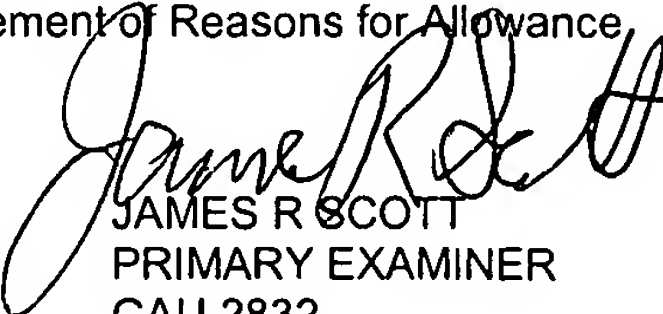
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


JAMES R SCOTT
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GAU 2832

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

ABSTRACT

The new abstract of the disclosure replaces the abstract submitted on 11/16/2004. In the last line, the word – solocine-- should read as – silicone --.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A multifunctional pushbutton switch for a vehicle steering wheel has a plurality of pushbutton switching units with pushbutton surfaces that are close to each other in a common operating surface. The switch has a common switch housing in which actuation tappets of the pushbutton switching units are movably guided. A cap is mounted onto the switch housing. The cap is made by means of a two-component injection-molding technique of a relatively rigid plastic frame with a cutout window whose shape and size correspond to the circumference of a pushbutton surface and of a [silicone] silicone membrane stretched over the window.

Drawings

The following changes to the drawings must be made: The sheet 1-2 of the replacement sheets is not approved since the texture of the lead lines and numerals 34 and 36 differs from the texture of the other lead lines and their

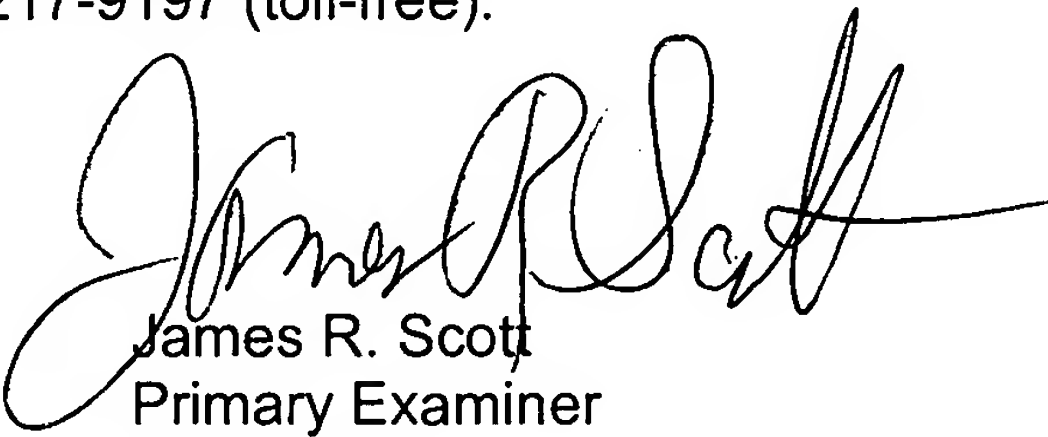
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associated numerals in Fig. 2. The lead line of numeral 36 should not be located in the proximity of the figure legend FIG. 2. It is suggested that the numeral 36 be located to the left of numeral 28a with its associated lead line. In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these drawing changes.

Summary

Claims 1-8 are allowed. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James R. Scott whose telephone number is (571) 272-1999. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Friday between 1-5 p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Elvin Enad can be reached on (571) 272-1990. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JRScott: jrs
December 12, 2004
Attachment: Clean Copy of Abstract
of the Disclosure


James R. Scott
Primary Examiner
GAU 2832

Attachment

Clean Copy of

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A multifunctional pushbutton switch for a vehicle steering wheel has a plurality of pushbutton switching units with pushbutton surfaces that are close to each other in a common operating surface. The switch has a common switch housing in which actuation tappets of the pushbutton switching units are movably guided. A cap is mounted onto the switch housing. The cap is made by means of a two-component injection-molding technique of a relatively rigid plastic frame with a cutout window whose shape and size correspond to the circumference of a pushbutton surface and of a silicone membrane stretched over the window.